MINUTES

OF THE

THIRTY-THIRD SESSION

OF THE

Bethlehem Baptist Association,

HELD AT

BELLVILLE, CONE[illegible]TH COUNTY, ALA.

SEPTEMBER 22-25, 1849.

MARION, ALA.

PRINTED BY JOHN G. MARKHAM.

THIRTY-THIRD SESSION

OF THE

BETHLEHEM BAPTIST ASSOCIATION.

The Bethlehem Baptist Association, commenced her thirty-third session with the Bellville Church, Conecuh County Ala., on Saturday, the 22d day of September, 1849.

Elder John C. Jones, preached the introductory sermon, from *Mat.* 10, xxxiv:—"Think not that I am come to send peace on the earth; I came not to send peace but a sword."

The messengers assembled in the meeting house, and after approriate religious services, the Moderator took the chair and called the Association to order for business; whilst Elder Jeremiah Reeves preached to the congregation, at a well arranged stand, in a pleasant grove.

1. The Letters from the Churches were read, the names of messengers enrolled and statistics minuted.

2. Re-elected Elder Alexander Travis, Moderator, and Elder Platt Stout Clerk.

3. Invited visiting ministering brethren to seats with us.

4. Called for petitions for membership; upon which the Ridgeville church, Butler county Ala., presented a letter of dismission from the Alabama Association to this body; and the Arkadelphia church, newly constitued, in Conecuh county Ala., presented a petitionary letter for membership. They were unanimously received, and the right hand of fellowship given to their messengers by the Moderator.

5. The Standing Committees were announced by the Moderator: viz.—

On Arrangement.—Brethren Sessions, Longmire, Daily, Pope and Lindsey.

On Finance.—J. R. Hawthorn, Mosely and Jay.

On Preaching.—Andress, Prichett, Newberry, with the Deacons of the Bellville church.

On Documents.—J. C. Jones, Kirvin and M. L. McWilliams.

On Correspondence.—Ritchie, Andress and Spence.

6. On motion a committee was appointed to report upon the moral and religious instruction of the colored people. Brethren Stout, Lindsey and Longmire compose the committee, to which, on motion, the Moderator was added.

7. The committee on Preaching reported for to-morrow, that Elder David Lee preach the Missionary sermon at 11 o'clock, A. M., and Elder Stout follow, and at the close, a collection be taken up for the benefit of our Associational Mission; and in the afternoon Elder Sessions preach, and Elder Travis follow. Also that at 11 o'clock, A. M., Elder Jeremiah Reeves preach to the colored people in the house, and Elder Kirvin follow him.

Adjourned to meet on Monday morning, at 10 o'clock. Prayer by Elder Lindsey.

LORD'S DAY, September 23, 1849.

The public religious services, were conducted by the brethren in the order of their names, with the exception that Elder Hawthorn closed the afternoon services at the stand. The congregations were very large, and gave interested attention to the things spoken.

At the close of the morning services at the stand, a collection was taken in aid of our Associational Mission, amounting to $62, 05.

MONDAY MORNING, Sept. 24, 1848.

Met pursuant to adjournment. Prayer by Elder Morrow.

8. Read the minutes; called and corrected the roll, and on motion, read only the Rules of Decorum of the Association.

9. The committee on arrangement reported. The report was adopted and the committee discharged.

10. Ordered that the committee on Finance henceforth, be charged with auditing all accounts presented to and acted on by this Association.

11. The committee on Preaching further reported:—that Elder G. B. Davis preach at 11 o'clock, A. M., and Elder Lindsey follow; and Elder Morrow preach in the afternoon and Elder Kirvin follow.

12. Called for correspondence, and received at the hands of Elder Lemuel Tippins, a package of minutes, in which was included a printed letter of correspondence of the West Florida Association. Also, at the hands of Elder David Lee, a printed minute, with circular letter of correspondence of the Alabama Associaton. And from the Bethel Association, a letter of correspondence and package of minutes, by their messengers, Elders Jeremiah Reeves, and William Hill, Junior. The brethren were severally invited to seats with us and a participation in our deliberations.

13. To corresponding Associations, the following brethren were appointed messengers: viz,

To West Florida.—Elder Joseph Mitchell.

To Bethel.—Elders Alexander Travis and Platt Stout.

To Alabama.—Elders Garrett Longmire, Platt Stout, E. E. Kirvin, M. L. McWilliams and brother Moses Pierce.

14. Received the report of our Missionary, which was adopted and ordered to be printed. [Appendix A.]

15. *Resolved*, That the appointment of Missionaries, determining their salaries, together with the entire management of our Missionary operations, be referred to our Board of Domestic Missions, under the regulations adopted at County Line in 1843.

Took a recess of an hour.

Two o'clock, P. M.

Resumed business.

16. *Resolved*, That in the organization and objects of the Southern Baptist Publication Society, we recognize a happy adaptation to the condition and known wants of our Southern churches and community, and therefore, commend it to the favorable regard and support of the churches and brethren generally.

17. Appointed the next meeting of this Association to be held with the Bethany church, Monroe County Ala., to commence on Saturday before the 4th Lord's day in September, 1850. Elder M. L. McWilliams to preach the introductory sermon—Elder Garrett Longmire Alternate.

18. On motion, Elder J. J. Sessions was appointed to deliver a Missionary sermon, at 11 o'clock A. M., on Lord's day of our next session, and Elder A. Travis appointed alternate,

Adjourned until to-morrow morning. Prayer by Elder Tippins.

TUESDAY MORNING, SEPT. 25, 1849.

Met according to adjournment. Prayer by Elder Sessions.

19. The report of the committee on the Moral and Religious instruction of the colored people, was called for, read and adopted, and ordered to be printed. [App. B.]

20. On motion, the word *five*, in the first line of the 5th item in the report of the committee on Domestic Missions, adopted at County Line in 1843, be stricken out, and the word *twelve* inserted; so that the Committee, or Board of Domestic Missions, be composed of twelve members, to be appointed by the Messengers from each District of the Association separately, choosing three from their own District.

By unanimous consent, the Association suspended business, for the purpose of affording an opportunity to the Messengers of the several Districts, to make their arrangements for the District meetings for the next year, and to elect the Board of Domestic Missions.

The several Districts being prepared to report, the Association resumed business, when the following reports were made: viz.

21. First District.—Meeting with Little River Church, Monroe County, Ala., on Friday before the 2d Lord's day in July, 1850.

Ministers chosen to attend.

From Second District.—Elders Stout and J. C. Jones.

From Third District—Elders K. Hawthorn, and G. Longmire.

From Fourth District.—Elders A. Travis, and A. W. Jones.

Second District.—Meeting with the Rock West Church, Wilcox County, Ala., Friday before the 4th Lord's day in July. 1850.

Ministers chosen to attend.

From First District.—Elders Sessions and Lindsey.

From Third District—Elders Hawthorn and Longmire.

From Fourth District.—Elders Travis and A. W. Jones.

Third District.—Meeting with Fellowship Church, Wilcox County, Ala., Friday before the 1st Lord's day in August. 1850.

Ministers chosen to attend.

From First District.—Elders Sessions and Lindsey.

From Second District—Elders J. C. Jones and Stout.

From Fourth District.—Elders Travis and A. W. Jones.

Fourth District.—Meeting with the Beulah Church, Conecuh County Ala., Friday before 1st Lord's day in Sept. 1850.

Ministers chosen to attend.

From First District.—Elders Sessions and Lindsey.

From Second District.—Elders J. C. Jones and Stout.

From Third District.—Elders Hawthorn and Ritchie.

Board of Domestic Missions.—*First District.*—J. J. Sessions, L. W. Lindsay, and R. R. Mosely.

Second District.—Platt Stout, J. C. Jones, and J. D. Pritchett.

Third District.—S. S. Andress, K. Hawthorn, and G. Longmire.

Fourth District.—A. Travis, A. W. Jones, and J. R. Hawthorn.

All of which was concurred in by the Association.

22. Elder Joseph Mitchell, Missionary of the Association, tendered his resignation for the unexpired portion of his engagement, say to the 1st December next; which was accepted.

22. The Treasurer's report was read, and referred to the Financial and Auditing Committee.

24. *Resolved*, That Elders K. Hawthorn, J. J. Sessions, P. Stout, J. C. Jones, and A. Travis, be a committee to inquire into, and advise with, the St. Anthony street Church, in Mobile, in relation to her condition and prospects; and, if desired by her members, and deemed advisable by said committee, aid her in a regular and orderly dissolution; and report to this Association at the next session.

25. *Resolved*, That Elders Morrow, Parker, and Travis, be a committee to visit Shiloh and Escambia River Churches; and Elders Spence and Couch, with brother Henry Bolton, be a committee to visit Brook Cedron Church, enquire into their condition and the cause of their failing to represent themselves in the Association, according to the provisions of the Constitution, and report to the Association at her next session.

26. The Committee on Correspondence reported letters to the West Florida, Bethel, and Alabama Associations, which, being severally read and adopted, the committee was discharged.

27. The Committee on Documents made their report. The report was adopted, ordered to be printed, and the committee discharged. [See Appendix C.]

28. There was contributed to the funds of the Alabama Baptist State Convention, for the Indian Mission Association, one dollar; for the Southern Baptist Publication Society, three dollars and twenty-five cents; for the general fund, fifteen dollars and seventy-five cents; in all, twenty dollars.

29. Appointed delegates to the Alabama Baptist State Convention, viz: Elders J. J. Sessions, J. C. Jones, P. Stout, J. Mitchell, E. E. Kirvin, K. Hawthorn, L. W. Lindsey, J. U. Ritchie, G. Longmire, and brother Fielding Straughn, and the following alternates, viz: brethren J. W. Leslie, Dixon Hestle, S M. Wooten, S. S. Andress, and Elder M. L. McWilliams.

30. Appointed Elder Stout to write the corresponding letter to the Convention, and take charge of the funds raised for her use.

31. Examined and corrected the table of ministers, clerks, &c.

32. On motion, the clerks of the churches are requested to note, in their annual letters to the Association, any changes that may occur in any of the items embraced in the table of ministers, clerks, &c., appended to these minutes.

33. Ordered, that the Constitution, Articles of Faith, and Rules of Decorum of this Association, be appended to these minutes.

34. *Resolved*, That the churches with which the Association shall hereafter be held, be affectionately advised to make arrangements for the celebration of the Lord's Supper on the Lord's day of the session, and invite the messengers of the Association, and visiting brethren, to participate with her in that solemn and delightful service.

35. The Finance and Auditing Committee made their report which, with the documents referred to, were received, and ordered to be printed. [App. D.]

36. On motion, a committee was appointed to prepare, and report to the next meeting of this Association, a standing order of business. Elders Stout, Hawthorn, and J. C. Jones, compose said committee.

37. Ordered, that the Clerk have 1500 copies of these minutes printed; and, after reserving 100 copies for correspondents, distribute the balance amongst the churches; and that he receive thirty dollars for his services.

38. Re-elected brother Richard R. Mosely Treasurer.

39. Ordered, that the balance of three dollars and fifty-eight cents, reported to be owing to Elder Joseph Mitchell, for missionary service to date, be paid him out of funds in the hands of the Committee on Finance; that said Committee hand over the balance in hand to the Clerk. And it was further ordered, that the Clerk pay into the Treasury of the Association any surplus that may remain, after meeting the appropriation for his service and printing the minutes; which surplus shall be subject to the order of the Board of Domestic Missions.

After an appropriate address and prayer by the Moderator, the Association adjourned, to meet with the Bethany Church, near Preyerville, Monroe county, Ala., on Saturday before the fourth Lord's day in September, 1850.

ALEXANDER TRAVIS, *Moderator.*

PLATT STOUT, *Clerk.*

APPENDIX.

[A.]

Report of the Domestic Missionary.

Again I have the pleasure of submitting to your body the following annual Report:

Month.	*Days.*	*Sermons.*	*Baptised.*	*Miles.*
October,	17	20	8	100
November,	30	20	2	400
December,	24	23	7	200
January,	28	19	1	300
February,	23	19	2	300
March,	24	19	1	290
April,	21	19	3	300
May,	22	20	0	300
June,	19	17	5	275
July,	21	17	0	250
August,	10	18	1	100
September,	14	12	3	225
Total,	253	213	33	3040

In addition to the above exhibit, I aided brother A. W. Jones in two protracted meetings in the month of August, for which he assisted me in return in the missionary field. Also, brother D. R. W. McIver, of the Alabama Association, felt interested enough in our domestic missionary field of labor to spend the month of May with me, during which entire month he labored faithfully for our glorious cause. Brother W. C. Morrow also assisted me at a meeting of several days at Milton, and brother Travis, at Bethel church, in a meeting of several days.

Respectfully submitted, J. MITCHELL.

[B.]

Report on Religious Instruction of the Colored People.

The physical, moral and spiritual improvement of the African race, at home and abroad, are claiming the interested and increasing attention of our churches and community; and that much has already been effected for that degraded portion of the human family, is cause of devout gratitude to the God of grace. But that all has not been done, or, in many cases, not even attempted, that their condition and our duty require, is a fact but too obvious.

The obligation to do something, in order to better their condition, is no longer an open question: another has taken its place, and strongly agitates the public mind. It is this. How can this obligation be best cancelled? Your committee regard the area of this investigation too broad to be covered —if, indeed, they were competent to the task—in the time allowed them to present their report; they, therefore, only present these brief suggestions in relation to the moral and religious points involved.

As far as your committee are advised, this subject was first agitated in our denominational assemblies in Alabama, at our State Convention of 1844, and has held a prominent place in her deliberations at each succeeding session, and has successively claimed the attention of associations and churches until the interest in it has become general.

The experience of a few ministers and churches, prior to that time, concurred in demonstrating, that the plan of having separate meetings for them was productive of happy results; whilst all experience since but confirms the propriety and expediency of that course.

Much valuable preparation has been given to the conductors of these meetings by the catechetical instructor, especially to the deacons and private members, who, in the absence of their pastor, conduct the exercises.

Your committee beg leave to refer to the resolution adopted by this body, as published in her minutes of 1848, on page 3, 28th item of business, and to append it as a part of this report, as containing a general outline of the best and most practicable system of public and private religious instruction for the slave population they have known to be adopted. They, however, regard it as indispensable, in order to carry out with good results the course herein suggested, that the churches pay special attention to the subject, and by all practicable means endeavor to insure the prompt attendance upon such meetings of a sufficient number of their deacons, and competent private members, to give the necessary encouragement to both the teacher and the taught, to ensure the orderly deportment of those in attendance, and their quiet dispersion at the close of the services; thus co-operating and sharing with the minister the otherwise too onerous responsibilities.

That our brethren should have given evidence of indifference in these meetings and their results, by failing to give necessary attendance upon them, and making judicious arrangements to secure the presence of their servants, is a painfully mortifying fact, that your committee only notice here in the hope that its bare mention will operate as a cure of what they regard a great evil.

Take heed, dear brethren, that the blood of these souls stain not your skirts.

Respectfully submitted, PLATT STOUT, *Chairman.*

"*Resolved*, That in view of the necessity of a more systematic and efficient course of moral and religious instruction of the colored people within her bounds, this association affectionately advise the following course:

"*To the Churches.*—Where there is a sufficient colored population to justify it, make arrangements for a separate service for them at least one Lord's day in each month, and oftener, if practicable. Of these services, let a

prominent part be reading and explaining the scriptures, preaching or catechising, as your pastor or other brother appointed thereto shall judge most advisable; appoint a committee to be present at all such meetings, to aid in preserving good order, and, if necessary, to assist in the services.

"*To Individuals.*—That all individuals owning, or having them as part of their family, so arrange the order of their family devotions, if practicable, as to have their servants present, and especially where they cannot attend upon the more public means of grace. On Lord's day, read the word of God to them, in connexion with such other religious and devotional services as will tend to promote their spiritual welfare."

[C.]

Report on Documents.

Your Committee on Documents, into whose hands our Clerk has placed all the available information upon that subject in his possession, have examined with care the documents submitted to their inspection, and have been forced to the conclusion that our missionary cause, which has so long languished in the hands of this Association, would receive impetus by the diffusion of knowledge amongst our churches upon this vitally important subject.

Your committee would, therefore, to advance this desirable result, recommend to our ministers and churches the "Southern Baptist Missionary Journal," and the "Commission," published by the Boards of the Southern Baptist Convention, at Richmond, Va., and the "Indian Advocate," published by the Board of Indian Missions, at Louisville, Ky., as being sources of cheap and reliable missionary information. One dollar and fifty cents will cover the entire cost of the publications recommended.

Respectfully submitted, JNO. C. JONES, *Chairman.*

[D.]

Report of the Financial and Auditing Committee.

The Financial and Auditing Committee beg leave to report that they have received from the churches, for the Minute fund, $84 80; from the Clerk, balance in his hands, after meeting the appropriations of last year, $35 55; making together $120 35; out of which they have handed to the Treasurer, on the order of the Association, $3 58, and the balance of $116 77 they have handed to the Clerk, as per order of the Association.

They further report that they have examined the following accounts, and find them correct, and present them as part of their report, viz: brother Mitchell, Missionary.

1849.] *The Bethlehem Baptist Association to* JOSEPH MITCHELL, DR.

Sept. 25. To one year and ten months's service rendered as Missionary, at the rate of $400 per annum, $733 33

1848.								Cr.
By amount received as per minutes of this year,						259	75	
Do	do	in cash, not through Treas'r,				52	40	
1849.]	do	do., as per receipts given,				213	20	
Sept. 25.	do	do this day,	-	204	40			
	do	do do to close ac't,		3	58	—207	98	
								$733 33

Bellville, Ala., Sept. 25, 1849.

The Bethlehem Baptist Association, for the Associational Year ending Sept. 1849.] 25, 1849, *in account with* Richard R. Mosely, *Treasurer.* [Dr.

To cash paid Elder Joseph Mitchell, Missionary, at sundry times, as per vouchers herewith submitted, . .	$470	00
Do paid to Elder Joseph Mitchell, by order of the Association, for balance due him for services, as missionary, to date,	3	58
	$473	33

1848.						Cr.
By cash from Flat Creek church, pledged for 1848,			$20	00		
Do	Bellville	do do do	15	55	35	55
1849. Do	Sepulga church and congregation,	.	19	50		
Do	Conecuh River church, . . .		5	00		
Do	Evergreen do . . .		3	50		
Do	Milton church and congregation,	.	20	30		
Do	Olive Branch church and congregation,		13	00		
Do	Beulah do . . .		30	00		
Do	Bellville do . . .		22	40		
Do	Yellow River do . . .		10	15		
Do	Zion do Mobile county,	.	16	50		
Do	Concord do . . .		6	45		
Do	Flat Creek do . . .		8	00		
Do	Ackerville do . . .		5	00		
Do	Black's Bluff do . . .		5	00		
Do	Dist. meeting No. 1, J. T. Henderson, Tres'r		73	25		
Do	do 2, by J. C. Jones, do		45	35		
Do	do 3, by J. A. Rabb, do		42	00		
Do	Individuals, viz: M. Marshall, $1; S. M. Wooton, 2; Jno. McWilliams, 5; James Scott, 2; Jno. Snell, 1; J. W. Leslie, 1; W. W. Boykin, 15; Eliz. S. Hunter, 15; Maria Duckworth, 2 50; Pl. Stout, 2 50,				47	00
Do	Public collection, taken up on Lord's day,				62	05
Do	Rec'd of Finance Com. to closd acc't with Elder J. Mitchell, ...				3	58
					$473	33

1848] PLATT STOUT, *Cl'k, in acc't with the Bethlehem Baptist Ass'n.* [DR.

Sept. 26. To amount paid over to him by by Com. on Finance for printing minutes, &c., as per 33d item of business, in printed minutes, ... $126 05

1848. CR.

Nov. 2. By cash paid Geo. Carleton, editor of the Camden Mirror, for printing 1500 copies of the minutes of Association for 1848, as per his voucher, $60 00

By cash paid for wrapping paper and twine to envelope packages forwarded by mail, . 00 50

By cash retained to meet the appropriation of the Ass'n for my services as Clerk, (see 35th item of business, in printed minutes, . . 30 00

1849. Sept. 25. Balance paid over to Financial Com. 35 55 $126 05

All of which is respectfully submitted, J. R. HAWTHORN,

Chairman Financial and Auditing Committee.

Bellville, Ala., Sept. 25, 1849.

CONSTITUTION

OF THE

BETHLEHEM BAPTIST ASSOCIATION.

ARTICLE 1. The Association shall be composed of members chosen by the different churches in our union, who, in producing their credentials, shall be entitled to seats.

ART. 2. The members thus chosen and convened, shall be known by the name of "The Bethlehem Baptist Association," who shall usurp no authority over the churches in our union, or infringe on any of their internal rights; but shall be merely an advisory counsel, in all matters relative to their internal concerns; nevertheless, it becomes necessary in some cases, to have a uniform rule of procedure: namely, if one church commit an offence against another, it shall be the duty of the *offended* to labor with the *offender* for satisfaction: if she fail of success, she shall call the aid of two or more sister churches in our union, to assist in laboring for satisfaction, and if final satisfaction, in the opinion of the helps, thus called, be not obtained, the aggrieved may bring her case before the Association for counsel.—If a serious difference should arise in an individual church, which upon labor cannot be reconciled, she shall call the aid of two or more sister churches to assist in the work; and if a happy reconciliation, in the opinion of the helps thus called, be not effected, the case may be brought before the Association, and acted upon as above prescribed, but the Association will take cognizance of no case of the above kind, unless a due course of procedure shall have been pursued, according to the economy of church discipline, found in the 18th chapter of the Gospel by St. Matthew, and other parts of Scripture, which define the nature of offences, and manner of bringing offenders to trial.

ART. 3. The churches in our union shall transmit to every annual session of the Associations, a letter specifying the names of their messengers, their number in fellowship, baptized, received by letters, dismissed, excommunicated, restored, deceased since last session, which shall be read and minuted accordingly.

ART. 4. Every church in our union shall be entitled to representation in the following manner: viz. a church containing fifty members, or less, shall send two messengers; and for every additional fifty, an additional messenger. Any church failing to represent herself as above prescribed, shall state the reasons at the next session.

ART. 5. New churches may be admitted into union, by messengers bearing petitionary letters. If, upon due examination, they be found orderly and orthodox, the moderator shall manifest their admission, by giving the messengers the right hand of fellowship.

ART. 6. The Association, when convened, shall be governed by a regular and proper decorum, which she is authorized to form and amend according to her own views.

ART. 7. At every session of the Association, a moderator shall be appointed by, and of the numbers present, whose duty it shall be, to see that the rules of decorum

are strictly observed, and to take the voice of the association on all subjects legally introduced. A clerk shall, also, be appointed, whose duty it shall be to take proper and correct minutes of the proceedings.

Art. 8. The association shall have power to exclude from her union, any church that may violate the constitution, or depart from the orthodox principles of the Gospel.

Art. 9. The association shall furnish the churches with the minutes of every session.

Art. 10. Every query sent by a church, must be inclosed in her letter, certifying that she has endeavored to reconcile it, but failed: in such case, the association shall take it under consideration, and the voice of the association shall be considered an advisory answer, which shall be entered on the minutes, unless withdrawn by her messengers, or voted out of the association.

Art. 11. Any church in our union, having a member who is judged to possess promising talents for the ministry, shall call from two or more churches the aid of their ministers, and select members of the laity, who, in conjunction with the church, shall examine the candidate, and if deemed qualified, may license him to preach the Gospel among the churches at discretion, which shall be reported to the association, and entered on the minutes.

Art. 12. Any church in our union, having a preacher whom she deems worthy of ordination, shall call a presbytery of ministers from sister churches, to officiate in the work; and all presbyters, in the ordaining of ministers or deacons, or in the constituting of churches, shall be governed by the abstract of faith adopted by this association.

Art. 13. Any church in our union, having a minister who may have fallen into disorder, if, after all due labor with him, he should continue refractory, and the church consider him a fit subject for excommunication, shall have power to exclude him from fellowship, and demand his credentials. If such a minister return and give satisfaction, the church shall have power to restore him to fellowship, as a private member; but if she wish him restored to the exercise of his ministerial functions, she shall again call a presbytery, who shall be discretionally authorized to renew his credentials, which, if renewed, shall be reported to the next meeting of the association, and entered on the minutes.

Art. 14. The association shall have a fund supplied by the voluntary contributions of the churches, and all moneys thus contributed shall be transmitted from the churches by their messengers, and paid over to the committee on finance. This committee shall be appointed annually, whose duty it shall be to receive in charge the association fund, and dispose of the same agreeably to order, and make, at every session, a fair and circumstantial report of their proceedings.

Art. 15. The association shall not adjourn any session, until she shall have finished the business on hand, except in extraordinary cases.

Art. 16. The minutes of the association shall be read and corrected, if necessary, and signed by the moderator and clerk, before the session rises.

Art. 17. The association shall, in all cases, be governed by a majority of the members present.

Art. 18. Amendments to this constitution may be made at any session of the association, when a majority of the members shall deem it necessary.

ARTICLES OF FAITH.

ART. 1. We believe in only one true and living God: the Father, Son and Holy Ghost.

ART. 2. We believe the Old and New Testament to be the revealed mind and will of God, and the only rule of faith and practice.

ART. 3. We believe in the doctrine of Election, that God chose his people, in Christ before the world began.

ART. 4. We believe in the doctrine of original sin.

ART. 5. We believe in man's incapacity, by his own free will and ability, to recover himself from the fallen state in which he is by nature.

ART. 6. We believe that sinners are justified in the sight of God, by the imputed righteousness of Jesus Christ.

ART. 7. We believe that God's elect shall be called, justified and glorified.

ART. 8. We believe that baptism and the Lord's supper, are Gospel ordinances: that immersion is the only mode of baptism; that believers are the only subjects.

ART. 9. We believe that regularly baptised members, in good standing, have a right to the Lord's table.

ART. 10. We believe in the resurrection of the dead and a general judgment; and that the joys of the righteous, and punishment of the wicked shall be everlasting.

RULES OF DECORUM.

ART. 1. The association shall be opened and closed by prayer.

ART. 2. A moderator and clerk shall be chosen by the suffrage of the members present.

ART. 3. The moderator shall be considered a judge of order, and shall have a discretional right to call to order at any time.

ART. 4. A member not satisfied with his decision, may appeal to the association on the same day, but at no other time.

ART. 5. But one member shall speak at a time, who shall rise to his feet, and, on obtaining permission, proceed.

ART. 6. The moderator, when addressed by a member for permission to speak, shall signify the same by naming the person, or otherwise.

ART. 7. No member shall be interrupted while speaking, unless he departs from the subject, or use words of personal reflection. Every motion made and seconded, shall come under the consideration of the association, unless withdrawn by him that made it.

ART. 8. Every case taken up by the association, shall be decided on or withdrawn, before another shall be offered.

ART. 9. When a question is taken up, after allowing time for the debates, the moderator shall take the voice of the association on the subject: and the members, on the affirmative of the question, shall signify the same by rising from their seats; and those on the negative, shall retain theirs.

ART. 10. The moderator shall pronounce the decision, before the standers resume their seats.

ART. 11. Any member wishing to retire, shall obtain permission of the moderator.

ART. 12. No member shall speak more than twice to the same proposition, without permission of the association, nor more than once, till every member wishing to speak shall have spoken; nor shall any proposition be made to close the subject, until the debates have been carried through.

ART. 13. The appellation of brother, shall be used in the association, by members, in their addresses, one to another.

ART. 14. The names of the members shall be called as often as the Association may direct.

ART. 15. No member shall be tolerated in any practice which tends to interrupt public speaking.

ART. 16. The moderator shall be entitled to the same privilege of speaking as any other member, provided he appoint another to his seat during the time; but shall not vote on any question, unless the Association be equally divided.

ART. 17. Any person violating these rules, shall be reproved by the moderator at discretion, but only on the day the breach shall have been made.

Lord's d'y of meet'g	CHURCHES.	COUNTY.	POST OFFICE.	RESIDENT PASTORS.	Other Ministers Members of the Churches.	BY WHOM SUPPLIED.	CLERKS.
	1st District.						
4	Zion	Mobile	Mobile	Wm. Spence			W. H. Rowell
3	Eight-mile creek	"	"			William Spence	Solomon Oswald
1	St. Anthony street	"	"				R. A. Walker
2	Blakely	Baldwin	Blakely		A. B. Couch	A. B. Couch	C. W. Wilkins
1	Stockton	"	Stockton				G. Byrne
2	Brook Cedron	"	Village	Thomas Nelson			J Litchfield
2	Montgomery Hill	"	Montgomery Hill			L. W. Lindsey	R. Singleton
4	Claiborne	Monroe	Claiborne			L. W. Lindsey	M. Marshall
2	Monroeville	"	Monroeville			J. J. Sessions	W. R. Henderson
3	Salem	"	Claiborne	C. Thames			L. R. Wiggins
1	Zion	"	Monroeville	John McWilliams			W. D. McWilliams
3	Bethel	"	Bell's Landing			John McWilliams	S. R. Thompson
2	Little River	"	Mount Pleasant			L. W. Lindsey	Ed. Holly
2	Bethany	"	Burnt Corn		C. P. Salter	A. Travis	F. H. Farrar
4	Concord	"	Buena Vista	J. J. Sessions	L. W. Lindsey		J G. Holcomb
4	New Providence	Wilcox	Black's Bluff			K. Hawthorn	I. Moore
	2d District.						
1	Black's Bluff	Wilcox	Black's Bluff			J. C. Jones	A. Henry
3	Gravel creek	"	Camden			J. C. Jones	L. W. Henry
2 4	Rock West	"	"	John C. Jones			J. E. Gullett
3	Canton	"	Canton				J. L. Rogers
4	Bethany	"	Camden			E. E. Kirvin	D. Pilkington
3	Ackerville	"	Carlowville	E. E. Kirvin			M. B. Keiser
4	Antioch	"	Snow Hill			M. L. McWilliams	W. M. Watson
2	Cedar Grove	"	"	M. L. McWilliams			William Norris
2	Union	"	Allenton			H. G. Owen	———
3	Allenton	"	"			K. Hawthorn	J. B. Sessions
2 1	County Line	Dallas	Portland	Platt Stout			William W. Boykin
	3d District.						
1	Fellowship	Wilcox	Mount Moriah			K Hawthorn	J. B. Scott
2	Friendship	"	Allenton	K. Hawthorn			W. B. Taylor
1	Bear creek	"	"	H. G. Owen	J. U. Ritchie		N. L. Stuckey
2	Indian Spring	Monroe	Turnbull			J. U. Ritchie	B. T. Watts
3	Pineville	"	"			J. J. Sessions	J. A. Rabb
1	Flat creek	"	"	G. Longmire			S. McCreary
4	Philadelphia	"	Burnt Corn			J. McWilliams	D. A. Rannelson
2	Mount Pleasant	"	Allenton			M. L. McWilliams	W. E. Coleman
3	Bethel	Butler	South Butler			Missionary	R. F. Sartor
3	Ridgeville	"	Ridgeville		Thomas Bennett, licentiate.	G. Longmire	Max. Rutherford
2	New Hope	Conecuh	Sepulga			G. Longmire	Joshua Holmes
	4th District.						
4	Bellville	Conecuh	Bellville			A. Travis	J. R. Hawthorn
2	Olive Branch	"	Sparta	A. W. Jones			J. V. Perryman
1	Beulah	"	Ever Green	A. Travis	D. Giddings, licent.		Andrew Jay
3	Ever Green	"	"			A. Travis	Y. M Rabb
2	Brooklyn	"	Brooklyn	Hanson Lee			J. Prewitt
2	Elim	"	Sparta	Noah Parker			G. G. Harrington
—	Shiloh	"	"			Missionary	H. L Peebles
4	Catawba Spring	"	"			N. Parker	D. M. McNeill
4	Sepulga	"	Brooklyn			N. Parker	J. J. Jackson
3	Arkadelphia	"	Bellville			A. W. Jones	J. C. Lassiter
—	Conecuh River	Covington	Andalusia			Missionary	G. A. Snowden
1	Fair Mount	"	"			———	L. S. Harville
3	Yellow River	Walton co., W. Florida	Almarant			Missionary	D. Gartman
2	Milton	Santa Rosa, W. Florida	Milton		Jesse Flowers		R. S. Otis
—	Escambia River	Do., do.	"				
1234	Pensacola	Escambia, W. F.	Pensacola	William S. Morrow	James Langley		A. Hendrix

☞ There is yet wanting to complete the file, Minutes of this Association from its organization to, and including, the year 1825, and the year 1833. Any friend who may have them will confer a favor on the Association by forwarding them to the Clerk.

TABULAR STATEMENT OF THE CHURCHES.

No.	CHURCHES.	COUNTY.	NAMES OF THE MESSENGERS.	Baptised.	Rec'd by letter	Restored.	Dismissed.	Excluded.	Dead.	MEMBERS. White.	Color'd	Total.	FOR MINUTES.	FUND
	1st District.													
1	Zion	Mobile	William Spence, Henry Bolton	0	1	0	0	0	0	22	7	29	$2	30
2	Eight-mile creek	"	Letter but no Messengers	1	2	0	4	3	0	14	9	23	1	50
3	St. Anthony st.	"	Neither Letter nor Messenger. (No. last year.)									30		
4	Blakely	Baldwin	*William Wilkins	0	2	0	1	0	0	34	15	49	1	00
5	Stockton	"	U. A. Barlow	0	0	0	3	0	0	10	14	24	1	00
6	Brook Cedron	"	Neither Letter nor Messenger. (No. last year.)							15	13	28		
7	M'ntgomery Hill	"	*Jesse Stedham, Jr., Thomas G. Holmes, Jr.	9	1	0	1	0	0	37	21	58	1	50
8	Claiborne	Monroe	T. R. Pope, A. Lambert	21	4	0	0	0	1	38	49	87	2	05
9	Monroeville	"	Dixon Hestle, John T. Henderson	26	0	2	6	0	0	77	13	90	2	25
10	Salem	"	*Cornelius Thames, James Newberry	0	2	0	6	0	0	42	5	47	2	00
11	Zion	"	*John McWilliams, *Ely Atkinson	8	3	1	3	0	1	41	6	47	1	50
12	Bethel	"	Richard Reeves, *Jeremiah Bayles	2	0	0	1	0	0	38	2	50	2	00
13	Little river	"	Elisha Duval, John Callahan	22	3	1	1	0	1	52	16	68	1	60
14	Bethany	"	Charles P. Salter, Joel Lee, Richard R. Mosely	6	8	0	1	2	0	68	61	129	2	50
15	Concord	"	J. J. Sessions, L. W. Lindsey	0	4	0	9	3	0	77	4	81	2	35
16	New Providence	Wilcox	*Isham Moore, John E. Courtney	0	1	0	0	0	2	24	23	47	1	50
	2d District.													
17	Black's Bluff	Wilcox	John D. Pritchett, Ausburn Henry	6	0	0	1	1	0	29	31	60	1	50
18	Gravel Creek	"	James Cree, *Robert T. Henderson	6	0	1	0	1	0	27	17	44	1	50
19	Rock West	"	John C. Jones, *M. M. Bonham	7	1	0	2	0	0	34	34	68	2	00
20	Canton	"	Neither Letter nor Messenger. (No. last year.)							14	73	87		
21	Bethany	"	*Drura Pilkington, *Dennis Hawthorn	1	0	2	0	0	0	21	36	57	1	50
22	Ackerville	"	Enoch E. Kirvin, W. J. Jones	0	1	0	0	2	0	59	7	66	1	50
23	Antioch	"	Silas M. Wooten, John McWhorter	1	1	0	0	3	0	22	13	35	1	00
24	Cedar Grove	"	M. L. McWilliams, Edmund Blankenship	0	0	0	1	7	0	38	43	81	1	60
25	Union	"	Neither Letter nor Messenger. (No. last year.)							57	9	66		
26	Allenton	"	*E. H. J. Mobley, *George O. Miller	0	0	0	1	1	2	35	7	42	1	00
27	County Line	Dallas	Platt Stout, *Wm. W. Boykin, *Wm. C. Jones. *Randal [Duckworth, *Thos. Lang, *Isham Morgan	3	3	0	5	9	1	38	220	258	2	00
	3d District.													
28	Fellowship	Wilcox	J. W. Lealie, Thos. Jefferson, Jr, *J. B. Scott, *Jno. Snell	2	0	0	11	1	4	46	62	108	2	00
29	Friendship	"	Kedar Hawrhorn, *Mathew Linam, Kindred Hardee	4	1	2	8	6	5	71	40	111	3	00
30	Bear creek	"	James U. Ritchie, B. M. Burns	0	12	0	1	3	0	74	6	80	2	00
31	Indian Spring	Monroe	*Cullen Mims, John DeLoach, *L H. Morrow	10	0	0	10	0	3	83	20	103	2	05
32	Pineville	"	S. S. Andress, A. H. Curry	8	2	0	6	0	0	54	17	71	2	00
33	Flat creek	"	Garrett Longmire, Samuel McCreary, G Kile	5	5	1	2	2	0	77	25	102	2	00
34	Philadelphia	"	J. H. Daily, Thomas Wiggins	6	0	1	1	0	1	54	22	76	1	50
35	Mount Pleasant	"	Neither Letter nor Messenger. (No. last year.)							27	8	35		
36	Bethel	Butler	Thomas Bennett, R. F. Sartor	14	3	2	1	1	1	54	2	56	1	85
37	Ridgeville	"	Jesse W. Coleman, Moses Pierce	32	3	1	1	1	1	45	28	73	2	00
38	New Hope	Conecuh	John W. Higdon, John Johnson	0	0	1	11	4	0	54	2	56	1	50
	4th District.													
39	Bellville	Conecuh	F. Straughn, H. Gully, D. Giddings, R. Ivy, J. R. Haw-	39	1	2	29	2	2	98	118	226	4	55
40	Olive Branch	"	A. W. Jones, Joseph Mitchell, John D. Salter [thorn	5	6	0	3	1	1	91	15	106	3	00
41	Beulah	"	A. Travis, O. F. Nunnelee, W. H. Greening, H. Warren,	89	1	1	2	2	3	51	191	242	2	50
42	Ever Green	"	J. V. Brantley, J. D. Travis [Andrew Jay	10	3	0	0	1	0	22	16	38	2	00
43	Brooklyn	"	Caleb Johnston, Hanson Lee	2	12	1	1	0	0	39	31	70	1	15
44	Elim	"	Noah Parker, G. G. Harrington	1	1	0	2	0	0	28	6	34	1	00
45	Shiloh	"	Neither Letter nor Messenger. (No. last reported.)							21	2	23		
46	Catawba Springs	"	William Goodwin, Daniel M. McNeill	4	1	0	0	0	0	28	1	29	1	50
47	Sepulga	"	William Barlow, Joshua L. Dean	0	0	0	0	3	0	49	1	50	1	25
48	Conecuh river	Covington	James Paggett, Coleman Overstreet	0	2	0	0	0	0	26	1	27	0	60
49	Fair Mount	"	Thomas Thompson, L. S. Harville	1	3	0	0	1	0	24	0	24	1	00
50	Yellow River	W. Florida	Daniel Hart, David Gartman	1	0	1	0	1	0	42	10	52	1	50
51	Milton	"	Jeremiah Savill, Daniel Cobb, J. R. Lee	14	9	0	5	2	1	83	38	121	2	20
52	Escambia river	"	Neither Letter nor Messenger. (No. last reported.)							74	—	74		
53	Pensacola	"	W. C. Morrow, Aaron Hendrix	15	11	0	4	1	2	26	84	110	2	00
54	Arkadelphia	Conecuh	John C. Lassiter, James Higdon.	5	1	0	0	0	0	26	3	29	2	00
				386	114	20	144	64	32	2340	1497	3867	$84	80

Note.—Absentees are marked with a star [*] before the name. The Clerk had no means of ascertaining the proportion of the white to that of the colored members of Saint Anthony street church; hence it results that the separate columns of white and colored foot up just 30 less than the column of total members. The nett gain for the past associational year is 356. The Bear creek church has ordained brother J. U. Ritchie, and the Bethel, Butler co., church has licensed brother Thomas Burnett as minister of the gospel during the past year.